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Lift The Age Barrier

IF LABOR MINISTER GREGG is earnest enough in his beliefs—and there is every reason to believe that he is—there may be some changes in the practice which compels an employee to retire at the age of 65.

In a recent address published in The Canadian Unionist, he described the custom as "archaic." Without being sure of its origin, he thought it might go back thousands of years to the native Incas of Mexico who established a fixed age scheme whereby a man was a worker from the ages of 20 to 25, and the head of a family and a taxpayer from 25 to 50. From 50 to 60 he just grew old and after 60 he was "an old man sleeping in the sun."

While it would not be desirable to force work on anyone who welcomed retirement, there is much to be said against cancelling out an employee just because he has reached a certain milestone in life.

In Mr. Gregg's own government there are four cabinet ministers, including the Prime Minister, who would have to go if the rules were applied to all categories. As this would involve a needless loss of ability and experience, it has become necessary to set up a double standard whereby those at a certain level of responsibility escape the axe at 65. The same situation exists in almost every other branch of industry and is, in itself, an admission that persons over that age are often more capable than those under it.

The yank-them-at-65 formula may clear the way to some extent for others coming up, but it has also led to a condition where an employee who finds himself in a rut at 40 or so is nevertheless reluctant to change his job. As he has only 25 years left before going on the pension list, many employers would be uneasy about engaging him. Consequently a man can be beaten by the age limit long before he reaches it.

If the doctors are right, our age expectancy is steadily increasing, and it is certainly true that the demand for specialists today means longer periods of training. As the two forces are combining to push our useful years further along, the time seems to be opportune for moving that age barrier in the same direction.

Scripture Passage for Today

"Casting all your care upon him."—I Peter 5:7

Realtors Expect More Business In 1953, But More Work, Too

Real estate men expect to do more business in 1953 than in '52, but expect to have to work harder for it.

This is the conclusion drawn from a cross-country survey made by the Canadian Association of Real Estate Boards.

A press release says: "Canadian realtors will be placing greater emphasis on down-to-earth selling as a shortage of cash for the purchase of homes becomes more evident. No longer can they expect to sell a house by the simple procedure of showing the home to a prospective buyer.

"Although looking forward to a year of increased sales, realtors are somewhat concerned about restricted mortgage lending.

The shortage of cash, they claim, is creating a boom in second mortgage financing. This means higher interest rates and substantial discounts which work a hardship on many families.

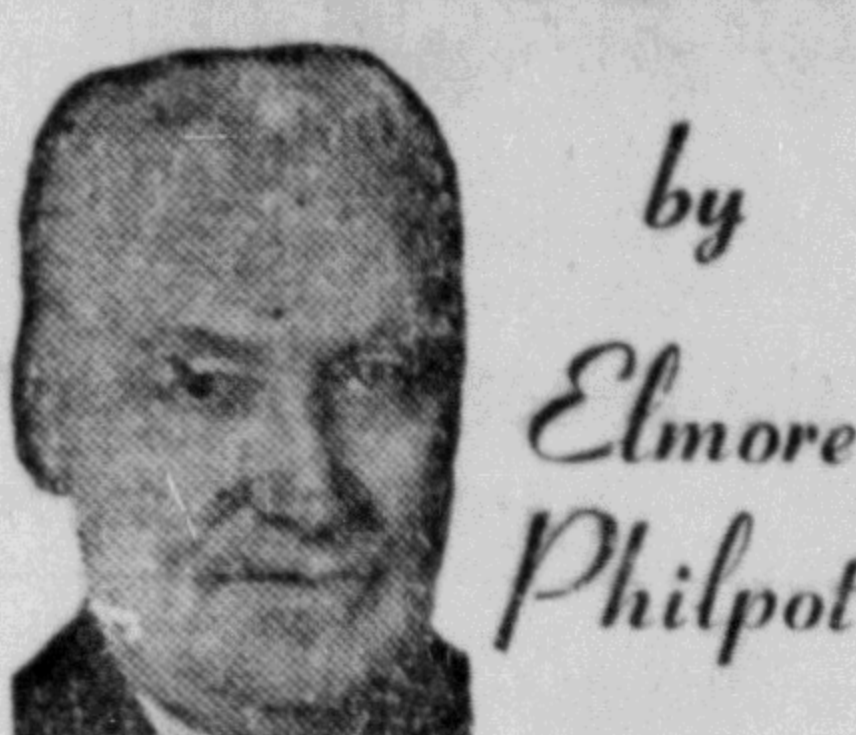
"Statistically, 1953 should better 1952's record figures. Realtors expect Canadian transactions to exceed the 500,000 mark set in 1952, while total sales should climb to \$3,000,000,000, an increase of \$500,000,000 over 1952."

MINING RECORDS

V. C. Wansbrough, vice-president and managing director of Canadian Metal Mining Association, says total value of Canadian mineral production in 1952 is estimated at a new high of \$1,250,000,000 compared with \$1,230,000,000 in 1951.

Metal production is expected to show a decrease in dollar value from \$732,000,000 in 1951 to about \$710,000,000. This is due, Mr. Wansbrough says, chiefly to lower prices for some metals, "and to the over-all effect of the appreciated Canadian dollar, which in the course of a

As I See It



New Doukhobor Book

THE SO-CALLED Doukhobor Problem has agitated Canada for fifty years. So it is strange that the ordinary Canadian cannot go to the library and pick up a reliable book which tells what it is all about.

But a new book, hot off the press, helps fill the need: DOUKHOBORS AT WAR, by John P. Zubek and Patricia Anne Solberg, Ryerson Press, \$4.50.

Dr. Zubek is assistant professor of psychology at McGill, with a long list of graduate and post-graduate degrees. But he was brought up in Grand Forks, speaks the Doukhobor language fluently and knows them as well as they know themselves.

Dr. Patricia Anne Solberg has a much similar background and also has a distinguished war record with the RCAF.

THE NEW BOOK lacks the dramatic power of Jim Wright's classic "Slava Bohu," which unfortunately is now out of print. But in 250 pages it clearly tells the story of the Doukhobors.

As a history, it seemed to me most useful, though I fancy many Doukhobors will think that its judgment both on Peter Lordly Verigin and his successors are in spots too harsh.

But it does make clear the main cause of the recurrent outbreaks. The ordinary Canadian approaches the "Doukhobor problem" from the point of view of what can be done to speed up assimilation, absorption of the minority into the general Canadian population. But the fanatic or fervent Sons of Freedom fear that very thing—their desperate and misguided efforts and outbursts are directed to preventing assimilation.

One minor flaw in the book is that it does not make clear enough that the vast majority of those of Doukhobor ancestry have already become just like the rest of us—they eat meat, drink alcohol, and are just about as lukewarm to religion as most everybody else.

THE CONCRETE recommendations of the authors will cause sharp controversy in B.C. They urge that the nudist demonstrations should simply be ignored, as a deliberate public policy.

They cite a most convincing case, where a wise prison warden ended nudism as a weapon, by doing that very thing. In a few days the nudists gave it up because it annoyed nobody and was most uncomfortable for themselves.

They urge also that harsh coercion should be abolished in regard to school attendance, and that the emphasis should be on attraction of the pupils.

They are flatly opposed to wholesale removal of the Sons of Freedom to Adams Lake or any other new spot—and claim this is simply a flight from reality—that the real problem is psychological and spiritual and must be dealt with as such, as it is, where it is.

But they would crack down hard on those who use violence—either the arsonists or dynamiters.

On Christmas Eve a decree proclaimed that railway delays would be regarded as sabotage. It was followed by another laying down that the railways were to carry none but priority goods—food, coal, essential raw materials and "goods required for the fulfillment of international obligations"—in other words, of exports to the Soviet Union.

Whatever happens to the Germans, Russia is insisting on getting whatever she wants from the zone.

The inevitable purges and dismissals had already begun.

They began in the Ministry of Trade and Supply. That is not unreasonable. It had the additional advantage that the Minister, Dr. Hamman, was not a Communist but a member of one of the small satellite parties which are still kept in existence in order to justify the pretence of a "national front," so it was easy to dismiss and arrest Hamman without scandal in the party.

A number of his higher officials were also dismissed; some were arrested others contrived to escape to the west.

So far the dismissals and arrests could be interpreted as a



PROPOSED PEACE PLAN—Krishna Menon, (centre) deputy leader of the Indian delegation to the United Nations, and author of the Korean peace plan adopted by the UN Assembly, but rejected by the Communists, visits Ottawa. He chats with Prime Minister St. Laurent (left) and Health Minister Martin. Mr. Martin took over the leadership of the Canadian delegation at the Assembly's seventh session when Lester B. Pearson, Canada's External Affairs Minister, was elected President.

East Germany Trouble Caused By Resistance Against Reds

By W. N. EWER

The closing down of the East German Ministry of Information and the dismissal of the once-powerful minister, Gerhart Eisler—the "Red Goebbels"—are clear indications that the government is becoming seriously worried about the state of public opinion in the Soviet zone.

Nor is this surprising. The economic crisis of which the symptoms became clearly visible some four months ago has not passed. Nor have the Government's attempts to cope with it been at all successful.

It was in September that the first admissions came that there were serious shortages, serious failures in production and complaints of "sabotage." At the same time, the number of refugees crossing from the Soviet zone into West Berlin (all other crossings being now effectively sealed) rose to well over 15,000 a month—double the figure of a year ago.

By the beginning of November Premier Grotewohl had to speak publicly of "serious deficiencies" and of the "dislocation of the execution of plans." A number of districts were "gravely in arrears in the execution of their agricultural plans and in the surrender of their produce."

The people were promised that the Government was "taking measures to eradicate mistakes and to guarantee regular supplies to the population." This followed and clearly confirmed reports of acute food shortages and of riots in some towns.

COAL SHORTAGE

Fuel and power cuts were announced, for a dangerous coal shortage had followed the cessation of the imports of Polish coal now being diverted by Russian orders to other satellite states. And Herr Ulbricht, Deputy Premier but the real head of the Government, threatened confiscation of their lands to farmers who either resisted collectivization or failed to deliver the quotas of foodstuffs ordered by the Government.

December brought no improvement, but more signs of anxiety among the leaders. "Sabotage" has been discovered on a scale which makes it necessary for all ministries to remember that the new economic plan has the force of law," announced Frau Hilde Benjamin, the woman President of the Supreme Court. All concerned from the ministries down to the worker "brigades" in factories would be held responsible for any failures, announced Herr Oelsner. "Offences against the plan have been treated with a tolerance which we can no longer permit."

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drastic but perhaps necessary effort to cope with administrative and bureaucratic incompetence, but then came developments of a different kind. There appeared in the communist press charges that prominent members of the three satellite parties were "stirring up the people" against the government.

Seven prominent members of the "Christian Democratic Union" were tried and sentenced at Erfurt for having attempted to organize opposition groups. The clear inference was that opposition and unrest were beginning to give the government reason for anxiety. More threats to farmers of drastic punishment for failure to deliver their food quotas showed that in the rural districts there was not only discontent but a kind of "passive resistance."

AT CHRISTMAS

But the most significant development of all came at Christmas. The Communist Youth Movement, the Party's special pride was suddenly declared to be full of "amoral and hostile elements of which there are several in positions of leadership." The movement had failed to secure adequate recruitment for the People's Police, the new armed forces and the "Service for Germany," which is a sort of state labor corps. A thorough and drastic purge was ordered.

Here again an admission was implied. There has been among the youth of the zone an evident unwillingness to join these formations. Either this is another form of passive resistance which has been so strong that all the efforts of the communist youth organization to overcome it have failed; or else that organization itself really is riddled with "hostile elements" who have been organizing opposition and resistance in the very heart of the Communist Party. Whichever it is, it is little wonder that the Government should feel alarm.

Herr Eisler's dismissal is another symptom. The Ministry of Information is being closed down because it has failed in its first task—which has been to win support and popularity for the Government and the regime. The Prime Minister himself is to take charge of all propaganda.

So the picture of the Soviet zone of Germany at the beginning of 1953 is one of a severe economic crisis, of popular discontent, and of growing dislike of the regime. This is not shown by the statements and the acts of the Government itself. If you see fire engines at work you may be quite sure that there is a serious fire.

It would be foolish to expect the unrest to develop into active resistance. The communist "fire engines" are at work trying to make sure that the smouldering fire shall not burst into flames. Communist methods of dealing with unrest and opposition are as drastic and as ruthless as were those of the Nazis before them. And the Russian Army of occupation is always ready in the background. But what a self-portrait it all provides of the real character of a "peoples' democracy."

Night Performances

LONDON (U)—City zoos will be open to the public at night during the Coronation season next summer. Premises will be adorned by bright lights, including artificial moonlight to lure nocturnal birds and animals into the public view.

MILESTONES

From the Files of The Daily News

40 Years Ago Today

Supt. Meehan of the G.T.P. has just received permission from the Railway Commissioner to operate a train service as far as New Hazelton.

Another evidence of the confidence the financial world places in Prince Rupert is the opening of a local branch of the Bankers Trust Association.

30 Years Ago Today

The crew of the ss. Prince Rupert will give a dance tomorrow night in aid of the Prince Rupert General Hospital. Admission—gents 50c, ladies, free.

The herring run in local waters is not expected until about the end of the month but local companies are taking the fish for bait purposes.

20 Years Ago Today

As there has been no successor yet appointed for Judge F. McE. Young who has retired, January cases on the list were held over until the next court session.

Daniel J. Williams, well known in this district, died suddenly in his home at Juneau. He was the nephew of the Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George.

10 Years Ago Today

The Junior Chamber of Commerce has indicated it will take the responsibility of collecting salvage material with the assistance of two other organizations.

A man was fined \$25.00 in city police court today for taking pictures at the Seal Cove Air Base under Defence of Canada Regulations.

LETTERBOX

OFFERS HELP

Editor, The Daily News—

As the mother of two lively boys, I was deeply moved by your editorial concerning the plight of four children on Christmas Eve. How far can people get from the meaning of Christmas, when we remember that a Child was born?

In a corner of our home stands an empty, outgrown crib and I am enclosing my name, address and phone number. If you can find out whether the baby you mentioned still needs better care, you can contact me. I am sure that there are many hearts and homes here in Prince Rupert which would be opened, at least temporarily, to these needy little ones, if their needs were better known.

But such would be only a temporary solution. Placing the children in private homes or an institution does not solve the problem, which should be done by helping negligent or delinquent parents to assume proper care and responsibility for the families which they bring into the world.

We have seen how splendidly the various women's organizations in the city can co-operate to bring Christmas cheer to the older people at their annual dinner. Could not these organizations similarly work together for action on behalf of these neglected children?

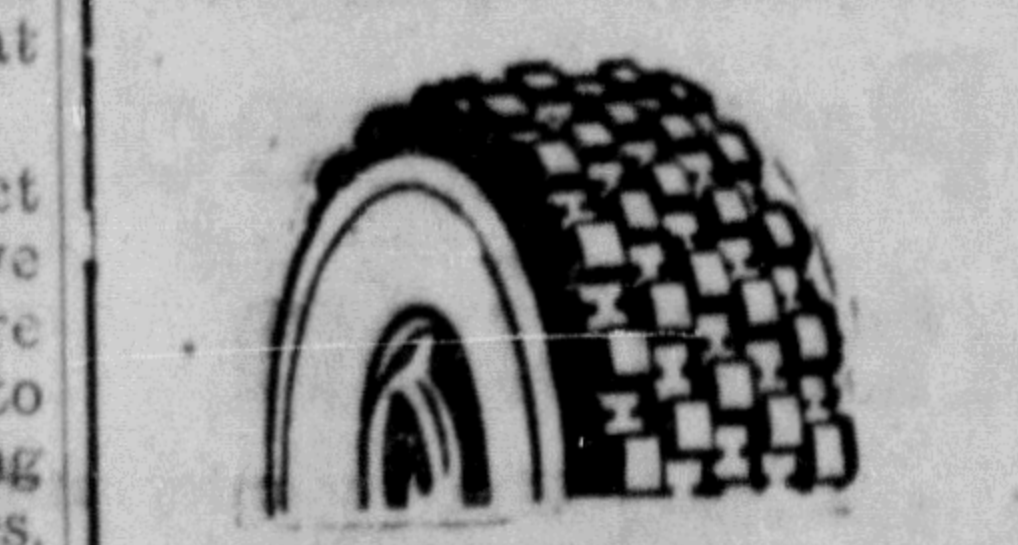
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Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Pedestrian—Man who can be reached easily by automobile.

Women can keep a secret just as well as men, but it generally takes more of them to do it.—Life Today.

Alaska was sold to the United States 85 years ago, but the Soviet objects to believing anything of the sort. Instead, Moscow charges "Yankee trickery." Communism is tireless in demanding the return of a vast and strategic territory to the rightful owners.

NO SALE

Red power would convince this generation that there never has been an actual sale. If there is an argument, it's an ingenious one. The world knows Washington paid \$7,200,000 to the Czar, but this was not in settlement of a commercial transaction. It was another sort of deal entirely.

It was not for paying for the Alaskan peninsula and islands. Far from it, says Stalin. The money was to cover the expenses incurred in sending warships to New York and San Francisco during the Civil War to bolster the Union cause. Alaska, therefore, was never a subject of sale.

LEGEND AFTER LEGEND

Other legends have grown up since 1867. The foregoing is but one tale. Communists today as never before realize the international meaning of Alaska. This is something immense. Moscow's might is only too willing to accept this one. Czar Alexander II was drunk when he sold the territory, may be taken as an example.

"American imperialists are ruthlessly destroying the Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts of Alaska." So says Izvestia, the Soviet's official daily.

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SEIZING SIBERIA
The peninsula is still regarded as the jumping-off point for the seizure of Siberia, and to Professor Albert Parry, gate University. One has to follow United Nations studies Alaska developments will not be the Soviet's deal" remains unwritten.

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